

the Senate proceed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 2419, the Energy and Water appropriations bill, with 1 hour of debate allocated as follows: 30 minutes equally divided between the bill managers, 15 minutes under the control of Senator MCCAIN, and 15 minutes under the control of Senator COBURN.

I further ask consent that following the use or yielding back of time the Senate proceed to a vote on adoption of the conference report, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 399, 435, and 438; provided further that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of the nomination of Susan Schwab, PN 1032, and the Senate proceed to its consideration; provided further that the Committee on Agriculture be discharged from further consideration of the following nominations: James Andrew, PN 802; Charles Christopherson, PN 839.

I further ask unanimous consent the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Anne W. Patterson, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs).

#### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Sue Ellen Wooldridge, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

#### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

George J. Opfer, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs.

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Susan C. Schwab, of Maryland, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

James M. Andrew, of Georgia, to be Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture.

Charles R. Christopherson, Jr., of Texas, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Agriculture.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

### REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY PROTOCOL AMENDING THE CONVENTION WITH SWEDEN ON TAXES ON INCOME

Mr. FRIST. As in executive session, I ask unanimous consent the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on November 10, 2005, by the President of the United States: Protocol Amending the Convention with Sweden on Taxes on Income (Treaty Document 109-8).

I further ask that the treaty be considered as having been read a first time; that it be referred with accompanying papers to the Committee on Foreign Relations in order to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

*To the Senate of the United States:*

I transmit herewith for the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, a Protocol Amending the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Sweden for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income signed at Washington on September 30, 2005 (the "Protocol"). Also transmitted for the information of the Senate is the report of the Department of State with respect to the Protocol.

The Protocol eliminates the withholding tax on certain cross-border dividend payments. The proposed Protocol is one of a few recent U.S. tax agreements to provide for the elimination of the withholding tax on dividends arising from certain direct investments. In addition, the Protocol also modernizes the Convention to bring it into closer conformity with current U.S. tax-treaty policy, including strengthening the treaty's provisions preventing so-called treaty shopping.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Protocol and that the Senate give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, November 10, 2005.

### EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING VETERANS DAY 2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 305, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 305) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Veterans Day 2005.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

### VETERANS DAY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, this Friday, November 11, is celebrated in this country as Veterans Day. It is always held on the 11th of November in memory of the end of World War I. In that "War to End All Wars" what wishful, optimistic thinking. All guns were laid down on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, at 11 o'clock a.m. on November 11, 1918. On that fateful hour, I am sure that many prayers of thanksgiving flew heavenward as Doughboys and their families rejoiced at their survival in spite of the most bitter and horrible fighting the world had yet experienced.

World War I saw the introduction of new and more deadly forms of warfare, as technology and chemistry were brought to bear on the battlefield. Horses were replaced by the first crude tanks and self-propelled guns. Monoplanes and biplanes brought warfare to the skies overhead for the first time.

Chemical weapons, terrible and deadly, clouded the trenches. Diseases stalked the fields as well, from trenchfoot to the deadly Spanish flu that killed combatants and civilians alike. It was a dreadful time, one that would surely erase the desire to battle, if only that desire could be wiped from the human genome.

In 2005, in wake of World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam conflict, the cold war and repeated conflicts in the Balkans, in Iraq, and in Afghanistan, World War I seems almost quaint. There was no threat of nuclear war bringing vast destruction to our homeland. There was no threat of terrorist attacks against innocent civilians. There was some respect for noncombatants, and there were no kidnappings or concentration camps.

Today's battlefield is amorphous. It touches humanitarian volunteers and journalists. It strikes at soldiers in their weary bivouacs, and it threatens to reach again into our everyday lives and travels. Our battle-stained soldiers get no rest.

This Veterans Day, we are at war on three fronts. First, let us never forget that we have troops in Afghanistan, still struggling to defeat the remnants of those who attacked us on September 11, 2001. They do not receive as much press coverage as the conflict in Iraq, but their fight is taking place in the heartland of the Taliban, the refuge of last resort for the mastermind of the 9/11 attack, Osama bin Laden. Our prayers go out to those brave men and women who labor in the deserts and the high, cold mountains of that embattled land. Your efforts and your sacrifices are not forgotten.

Second, we also have troops in Iraq, in a battle of our choosing. It is a battle that is consuming a high and bloody price on each difficult day. Our anxious prayers are with those men and women too, who must face each day not knowing what is around each corner or along each dangerous roadway. They may be sure, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that whatever we do